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2 Pages



NPIC/R-272/63

November 1963

PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION BRIEF

POSSIBLE MRBM LAUNCH FACILITY NEAR SOVETSKAYA GAVAN, USSR



CIA



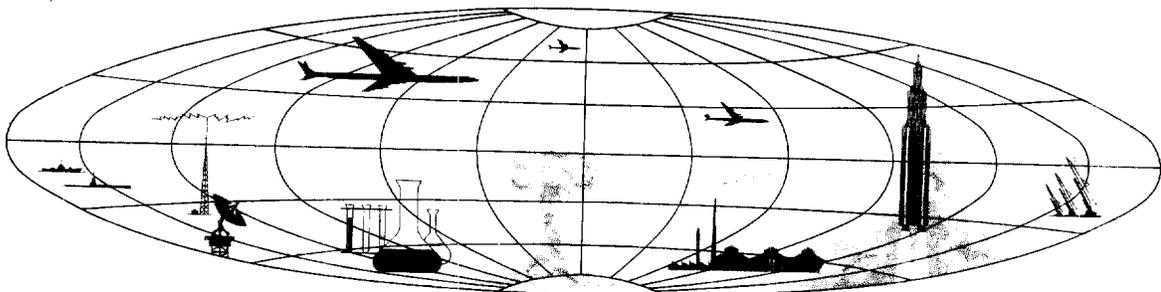
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NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER		PHOTO INTERPRETATION BRIEF	
Title: Possible MRBM Launch Facility Near Sovetskaya Gavan, USSR	Geo Coords: 49-04-20N 140-07-15E	COMOR No: None	Publication No: NPIC/R-272/63
	NPIC Target No: 0204-29Y	BE No: None	Date: November 1963

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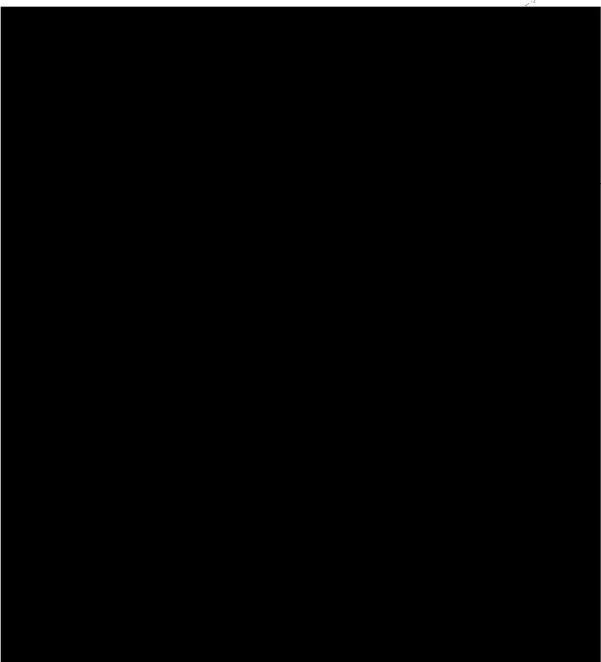
Photo Data: [REDACTED]

References: USATC Series 200, Sheets 0204-19HL & 0204-20HL (S); USAF JNC, Sheets 14N & 25N (C) NPIC Project J-367/63

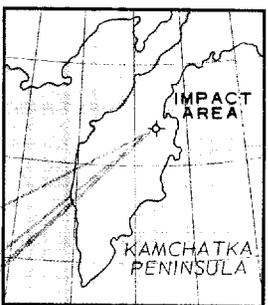
This brief is prepared in response to NSA requirement P043/R80-63, requesting a search of the Sovetskaya Gavan area with particular interest given to four suspect ballistic missile launch points (Figure 1). It is based primarily on good-quality KEYHOLE coverage of [REDACTED] however, there are earlier KEYHOLE missions of poorer quality and [REDACTED] TALENT photography which cover the search area.

The search resulted in the identification of a possible MRBM launch facility (Figure 1) located in a sparsely wooded area 4.9 nautical miles (nm) east-southeast of one of the suspect launch points, 10 nm north-northeast of Sovetskaya Gavan/Maygatka Airfield, and 7 nm west-northwest of the center of Sovetskaya Gavan.

The possible launch facility comprises an



area of about 98 acres and is enclosed by a single fence (Figure 2). It consists of an irregular road pattern on which are arranged one possible launch pad and three cleared areas which may be considered candidates for three additional launch pads. The center portion of the possible launch pad appears much whiter in tone than the remainder of the pad area, indicating a probable concrete surface. It has a due north alignment, whereas the general orientation of the suspect pad clearings is more to the north-northwest. A line drawn from the possible launch pad to the Kamchatka impact area forms an approximate 45-degree angle with the long axis of the pad. There are five buildings and a probable guardhouse located within the fenced facility. The largest building (160 by 55 feet) is situated in the southern corner and is connected to the main road network by a narrow road or trail. The remaining four buildings are considerably smaller and are located along the primary roads. Short roads branch off the main network at several points and terminate in circular cleared areas, each of which has one or more unidentified structures. The entire facility is served by a good road which connects directly with Sovetskaya Gavan/Vanino Airfield 3.5 nm to the southeast.



The possible MRBM launch facility did not appear on TALENT coverage of [REDACTED]

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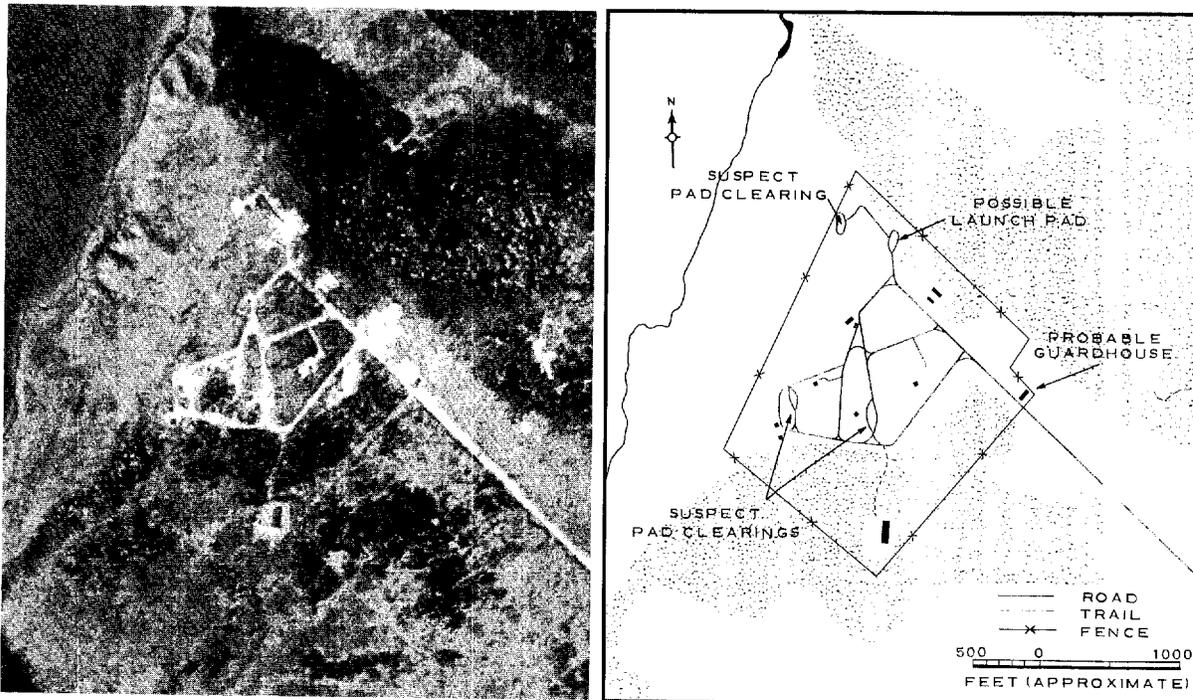


FIGURE 2. POSSIBLE MRBM LAUNCH FACILITY NEAR SOVETSKAYA GAVAN, [REDACTED] NPIC H-5516 (11/63)

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1/ and first appeared on KEYHOLE photography of [REDACTED] 2/ At that date the facility consisted of a much smaller fenced area and only the possible launch pad and a portion of the road network were visible. The date [REDACTED]

its present layout. Subsequent KEYHOLE missions, [REDACTED] were of poor quality and did not reveal any substantive information.

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ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

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Sovetskaya Gavan area to the Kamchatka impact area on [REDACTED]. On KEYHOLE coverage of [REDACTED] 3/ the facility was under snow cover; however, it appeared to have [REDACTED]

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